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SUBJECT: SW CHINA: LIQUOR AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUEL YIBIN'S  
GROWTH; GREENING ENERGY; CITIZEN PETITIONS FIGHT CORRUPTION

¶1. (U) This cable contains sensitive but unclassified  
information - not for distribution on the Internet.

¶2. (SBU) Summary: Yibin Mayor Wu Guanglei told Consul General  
January 7 that the city's economy grew by 15 percent in 2009; he  
expected 14 percent growth in 2010. Wuliangye, China's largest  
liquor producer, is striving to become more energy efficient.  
Road, rail, and airport projects will increase Yibin's regional  
integration. Wind and nuclear power will likely figure in the  
city's future energy mix. Wu said that Yibin's petition system  
works: citizen complaints led to the removal and punishment of  
three government officials last year. End Summary.

Liquor, Chemicals, and Infrastructure

Push Yibin's Economy Forward

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¶3. (SBU) Mayor Wu Guanglei said Yibin's economy grew by 15  
percent in 2009, and he expects it to achieve 14 percent growth  
in 2010. One driving force behind the city's economic  
development is liquor producer Wuliangye. (Note: A late 2009  
press report claimed that 70 percent of Yibin residents' income  
was directly or indirectly tied to Wuliangye. End Note.) Two  
other economically important firms in Yibin are Tianyuan,  
China's largest producer of polyvinyl chloride, and Siliya,  
which produces artificial fibers.

¶4. (SBU) Infrastructure investment is also a major contributor  
to Yibin's economic growth. Yibin plans to push ahead with  
several large projects. In addition to development of a  
23-berth port facility at the head of the Yangtze River  
(septel), Yibin is also building transportation links under the  
"6631" regional development project. The 6631 Project calls for  
the construction of six expressways, six railroads, and three  
"ones" -- one "golden waterway," one airport, and one river  
port. A rail line connecting Yibin to Guiyang and Chengdu, and  
expressways to Leshan and Luzhou, are already under  
construction. The city plans to build a 900 million RMB (USD  
132 million) airport by 2014 that will accommodate Boeing 747s.

Emission Reductions; Investment in Clean Energy; Forests

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¶5. (SBU) Wu said that Yibin had far to go in improving its energy efficiency. Wu predicted, nevertheless, that Yibin would achieve the national energy reduction goals of the 11th Five-Year Program, which ends in 2010. (Note: The 11th Five-Year Program calls for a 20 percent reduction in energy intensity this year, compared to 2005. End Note.) He said that Wuliangye, as one example, was converting waste into fuel.

¶6. (SBU) Yibin hopes to build a nuclear power plant in the city, but the plan is still in its very early stages. Wu said wind power would also help Yibin reduce emissions. Yibin has the second largest urban forested park in China, with forest coverage averaging 35 percent.

Address Citizen Concerns through Petitions; Fighting Corruption

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¶7. (SBU) Mayor Wu said that social conflicts arise, and citizens naturally make requests to the government. For example, the many demolitions of old housing brought by economic growth were causing more conflicts. Wu said that citizen petitions to the government on official malfeasance were handled separately from other requests and complaints, and sometimes resulted in

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investigations. In 2009, three Yibin officials were removed from their posts and punished as a result of citizen's petitions, he stressed. (Note: According to press reports, Vice Mayor Cheng Guangli was fired in March 2009 for playing too much mahjong and other unspecified offenses ([tinyurl.com/yibin-mahjong](http://tinyurl.com/yibin-mahjong)), while in October 2009, the former head of Yibin's Baihu district branch of the State Tax Bureau was sentenced to 10 years in prison for raping a young girl ([tinyurl.com/yibin-tax](http://tinyurl.com/yibin-tax)).

¶8. (U) In mid 2009, two counties under Yibin City started an anti-corruption experiment that requires senior officials and their families to register their income and assets, and submit to financial scrutiny ([tinyurl.com/yibin-reporting](http://tinyurl.com/yibin-reporting)). Seventy-five officials came under this program in 2009; it will soon expand to cover 400 officials.  
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